**Permission to international airlines to operate from Trivandrum**

718. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Government are not allowing international airlines, other than Air India, to operate through Trivandrum;

(b) whether there is going to be an explosion of tourism in the next decades; if so, whether Government would considered changing their policy for fuller exploitation of the tourist potential of Kerala; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Government have not allowed large scale international operations to Trivandrum because Trivandrum has not been declared as an international airport and only limited international operations are permissible from Trivandrum.

**Tourism infrastructure in the country**

719. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the country has been able to attract the fast increasing flow of international tourists, giving details for the last three years;

(b) what are the plans under consideration for creation of adequate infrastructure to receive tourists whose quantum is expected to double by the end of this country; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken in this regard by different States, with the cooperation of the centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last 3 years are given below:

| Year | Number (including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh) |
|---|---|
| 1985 . . . . . | 1,259,384 |
| 1986 . . . . . | 1,451,076 |
| 1987 . . . . . | 1,484,290 |

(b) and (c) Plans for the development of tourism infrastructure is generally taken up by State Governments through the assistance of Central Government. This includes construction of Yatri Niwases, construction of Yatrikas at pilgrim centres, development of beach resorts, improvment of facilities for skiing, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way side facilities on highways and development of tourist facilities along travel circuits.

**Employment potential of tourism industry**

720. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is going to be the most important industry in the world by the turn of the Century with big employment potential;

(b) the number of foreign tourists which India received during the last five years year-wise; and

(c) the number of people engaged in different aspects of tourism industry in India State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Tourism has already become one of the major industries of the world in terms of foreign exchange earning. The industry is also having large employment potential.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visisted India during the last 5 years